

3-13-2008

Vista: March 13, 2008

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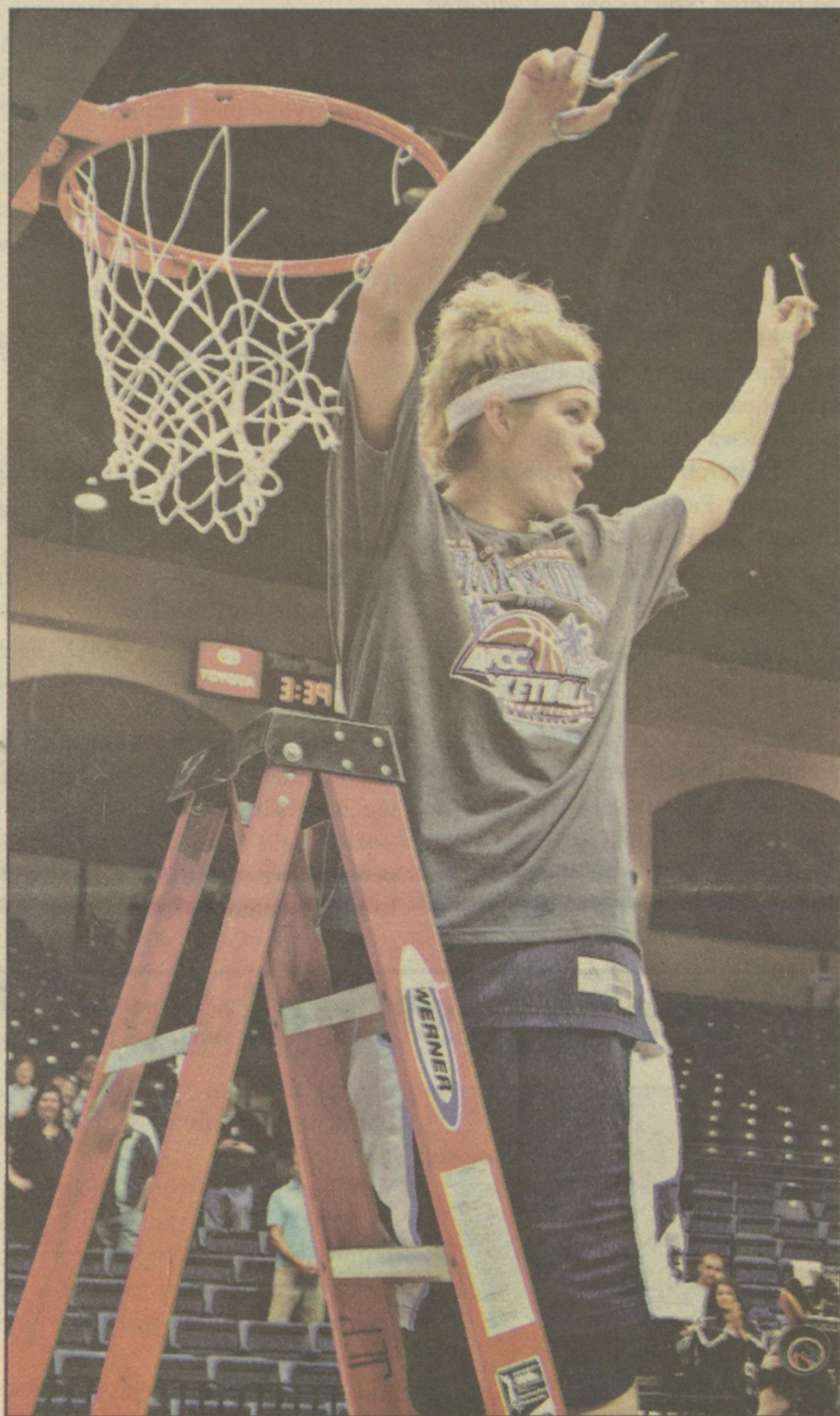
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Toreros punch tickets to big dance



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

Cutting down the nets: Sophomore forward Morgan Henderson celebrates the Lady Toreros' 70-66 WCC Championship win over Gonzaga at the JCP on Sunday. Henderson had a game-high 20 points in the win. **See page 17**



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

Exclamation point: Freshman guard Trumaine Johnson throws down a dunk with 7.9 seconds to play in the WCC Championship Monday at the JCP. The dunk punctuated USD's 69-62 win over No. 20 Gonzaga. **See page 20**

Students debate gun control and waterboarding

BY ROBBIE THOMAS
STAFF WRITER

College Republicans and Young Democrats discussed interrogation techniques and gun control in the first debate of the semester Tuesday at the IPJ. The debate came at a critical moment in U.S. politics, given the recent stream of shootings across the nation and Bush's veto on a bill that would have prohibited the use of wa-

terboarding and other interrogation tactics.

The Republicans argued that waterboarding is not torture, explaining that it is a form of enhanced interrogation similar to sleep deprivation and excessive open palm slapping. The Republicans said that there is a highly detailed and long chain of command before waterboarding is used. The Republicans said because it takes the U.S. president's approval for waterboarding

to occur, there have only been three recorded incidents of waterboarding. They also charged that waterboarding prevented "a highly organized attack on the tallest buildings in Los Angeles."

The Democrats shot back stating that the issue is more complicated and that the U.S. is behaving in barbaric actions similar to the Spanish Inquisition. The Democrats said waterboarding is not always reliable since one will say

anything to end the pain.

One of the debaters pointed out that a recent confession contained information regarding high-level crime rings, terrorist networks and planned attacks on the United States but when authorities investigated, every aspect of the confession turned out to be false. The Democrats also pointed out that waterboarding further alienates the United

See DEBATE, page 3

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NEWS

Courtney Hoffman

News Editor

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Newsworthy:

"I have acted in a way that violates my obligations to my family and violates my, or any, sense of right and wrong."

- New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer

WORLD BEAT

Sources: BBC, CNN

BY LIZ BUCKLEY
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Air pollution a concern for Beijing Olympics

Haile Gebrselassie, the 34-year-old marathon world record holder, has stated that he will not participate in the 2008 Summer Olympics held in Beijing because of his concern over the air pollution in the city. Gebrselassie, who has asthma, also opted out of the 2007 London Marathon for the same reason.

Ethiopia now plans to try and qualify for the Olympic 10,000 meters instead. The International Olympic Committee is investigating the issue of air pollution. Long distance events, such as the marathon, could be delayed for a few hours or a day if pollution levels are too high on race day.



Rebel leader is found smuggling crude oil in Nigeria

A private oil pipeline in Nigeria was discovered to lead to a militant leader's home. The home belongs to Ateke Tom, the leader of the Niger Delta Vigilantes, a rebel group. Tom is also accused of being involved in numerous robberies and kidnappings.

The Nigerian army does not know where Tom is at currently. The underground pipeline took crude oil from the oil refinery in Port Harcourt, where it led to Tom's home and continued to a private location where the oil was sold for profit. Political instability and a rise in violence have recently affected the region's oil exports.

New York governor linked to prostitution ring

New York Governor Eliot Spitzer is facing pressure to resign over the allegation that he was a customer of a prostitution agency, the Emperors Club VIP.

Investigators state that they have evidence of Spitzer arranging to meet a prostitute in a Washington hotel in February. The case is also looking into where the money came from to pay the prostitute. Spitzer was elected governor

in 2006. He has a wife of 20 years and three children. Spitzer has not admitted to the charges.

Spanish Prime Minister reelected

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero won another four-year term in office for the Socialist Party. Zapatero is known for his liberal point of view implementing laws that include gender-equality, facilitation of divorce and same-sex marriage. The Roman Catholic Church and the conservatives, the Popular Party, adamantly oppose such laws. The Prime Minister is urging a new era in politics after a heated election process.

Female Siberian prisoners participate in beauty pageant

Female prisoners in a Siberian prison participated in an annual "Miss Spring" beauty pageant with a chance to win early parole. Natalya Baulina, the prison's administrative leader implemented the pageant in 1990.

The pageant has advanced since its early stages when contestants created their costumes out of trash bags. Women now have access to dresses, make-up and hair supplies. The contest is broadcasted on a local television station. Early parole is awarded upon the discretion of the prison supervisors for good behavior and participation in the pageant.

Suicide bombers in Pakistan target Federal agency

Two suicide bombers in Lahore, Pakistan targeted the Federal Investigation Agency on Tuesday.

The bombers drove a car containing mass explosives into the office building managing to get past heavy security. The building was destroyed, leaving 17 people dead and 175 wounded.

Prime Minister Mohammadmian Soomro stated that he would try to trace the attacks back to their source.

Hundreds of innocent Pakistani people have already died this year due to a high number of attacks.

International Women's Day breakfast held at IPJ

BY DAVINA COADY
FEATURE EDITOR

March 8 is a day for women. Since 1975, it has been known as International Women's Day, a day when women can come together and discuss important issues such as women's education, violence against women and women's equality.

For the fourth year, the Institute for Peace and Justice held the International Women's Day Celebration Breakfast on Friday, March 7.

The main focus of the breakfast was to discuss possible options for funding future projects promoting gender equity. Speakers also talked about their recent attendance at the Commission on the Status of Women.

"Things have gone from bad to worse with this," said Dee Aker, deputy director of IPJ, in reference to sexual violence against women.

The CSW is a woman's group founded back in 1946 with the goal of promoting advancement of women. They tackle issues such as poverty, young women's education and infant and maternal mortality. This year the conference was also concerned about money, especially how and where they are going to get it.

As suggested by Erika Lopez, Women Peacemakers program officer, one source of funding could be the American government. Spending more than \$1.5 billion per day, Lopez



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

USD celebrates International Women's Day at the Institute for Peace and Justice.

argued that maybe the annual budget could afford more than the \$80 million currently given to UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Lopez also suggested that in order to continue fighting for women, they need to come up with more creative funding options. One novel financing practice is micro-financing. This is currently being done in the Amazon, where indigenous women make jewelry and bracelets for a type of income.

The breakfast also concentrated on

international women's issues that need to be addressed, something that also requires money.

"When you become educated and see the true tragedies and injustices that occur around the world every day towards women, I do not think there will be any hesitation in becoming an active member of promoting equality," senior Kaitlin Gowan said.

Jane Crane, a graduate student of peace and justice studies, talked about how some women in Africa cannot legally own land. When their husbands

die, usually from AIDS, they are chased out of the community with nowhere to go.

When foreign companies buy land in Africa, Crane hopes to set up a policy where the companies are legally required to give back some of it, allowing some of these homeless women to live off of the land.

Other peace and justice graduate students discussed the consequences of the distribution of small arms, the lack of women's rights in Afghanistan and the popularity of sex trafficking.

Two young women from Our Lady of Peace High School and La Jolla High, Alex Reicher and Jessica Wilson, presented a poem about sexual violence against women. Their speech was in support and recognition of the foundation catinternational.org.

To close their presentation Wilson and Reicher said in unison, "We believe it is a human right to be free of sexual exploitation."

A brief five-minute clip of the film "Leading the Way to Peace, IPJ Women Peacemakers Documentary" was also shown during the breakfast.

The short clip showed faces of mostly young women from numerous ethnicities, while others discussed peace efforts and gender equality. An ending quote that flashed across the screen summed up the overall theme of the breakfast: "The future is with women."

Former UN special advisor emphasizes action through awareness

Students encouraged to work together in order to fix pressing world issues

BY JORI GREGORIO
STAFF WRITER

Jan Egeland, former special advisor to the U.N. Secretary-General, spoke at the IPJ in a lecture entitled "War, Peace and Climate Change: A Billion Lives in the Balance" on March 4.

Egeland was Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator for the United Nations from 2003-2006.

Egeland led joint efforts in providing relief in the wake of many natural disasters, including the South Asia earthquake, drought and flooding in Africa and the Atlantic hurricane season.

His speech was intended to help students see that they must work together as a society to fix the problems that they are faced with.

Egeland began with a question for his audience, "Is it getting better or

worse in our world?" By "it" he was referring to genocide, famine, wars and many other sufferings that society faces. His immediate answer to this question was that in this decade we can confidently say that the "it" is getting better. Since 1989, when the Berlin Wall fell, much has changed for the better.

Egeland pointed out that there is 50 percent more peace in the world, there are around two genocides as opposed to 10 and there have been millions of people in eastern Europe and Asia who have been lifted out of poverty.

Egeland discussed today's current problems, many of which have never been faced in world history. Tonight alone one billion people will go to bed without any water or food.

He noted that it is predicted that fights will erupt over rivers in Africa because of the need for water. While it is true that people have suffered over

the lack of resources for thousands of years there is a new problem developing: an increase of awareness of the suffering in the world.

Egeland said, "Surviving on \$1 a day is far worse now because these people know exactly how we are living today, that is the people of San Diego

nami, no one died from lack of basic necessities like food and shelter. In Uganda 20,000 children have been kidnapped and turned into murderers so that rebel groups can have full control.

However with the help of the United Nations, many of these children have

"Surviving on \$1 a day is far worse now because these people know how we are living today... and it makes them angry like no time before."

Jan Egeland

Young Democrats and College Republicans discuss key issues

DEBATE continued

States from the rest of the world.

The discussion over gun control was equally heated. The Young Democrats said they wanted to tighten laws on purchasing firearms. They discussed U.S. gun shows and how the shows do

not follow the same policies and procedures that a firearm salesman would be obligated to, namely making background

checks and observing the customary wait period. To bolster their defense for tighter gun laws, Democrats quoted the statistics of 30,000 deaths each year due to firearms, in the United States.

In response, the College Republicans said that this "wasn't an issue of

statistics, and numbers, but a legal and philosophical issue."

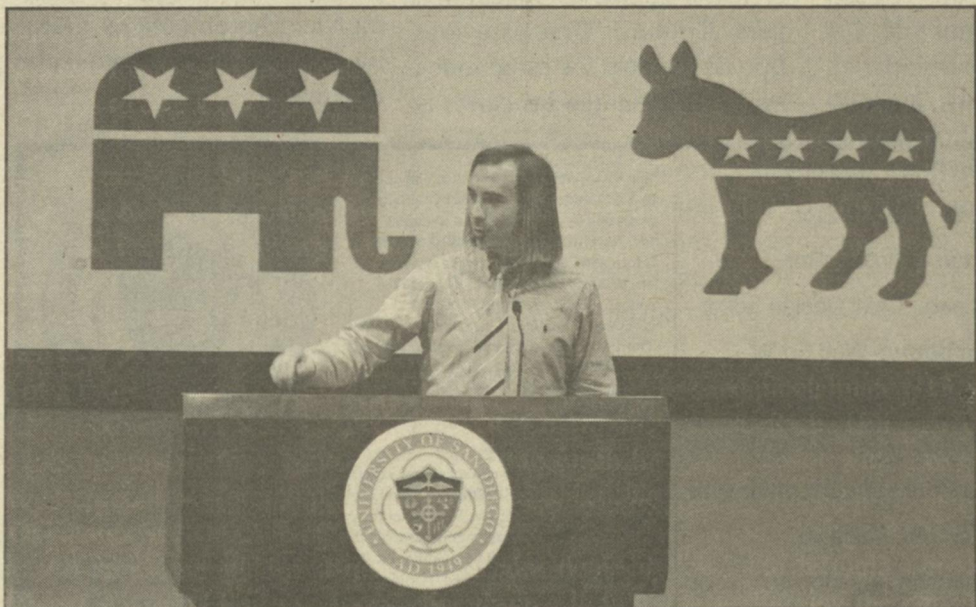
"I believe they [Republicans] made a great case in arguing that it is our right to own guns, and that there are responsibilities with that right, and consequences with that misuse," said Nathan Wolf, a biology major.

Brittany Schween, president of Democracy Matters, a student group at USD that fights for free and fair elections in the world, said, "This

"This debate showed that no one was a winner here today. Torture is still going on, and neither side offered solutions to the problem."

Brittany Schween

debate clearly showed that no one was a winner here today. Torture is still going on, and neither side offered tangible solutions to the problem. Both sides were more interested in spouting their parties' stances, instead of trying to come up with a real world plan."



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

Matthew Donnellan, president of the College Republicans, participates in debate.

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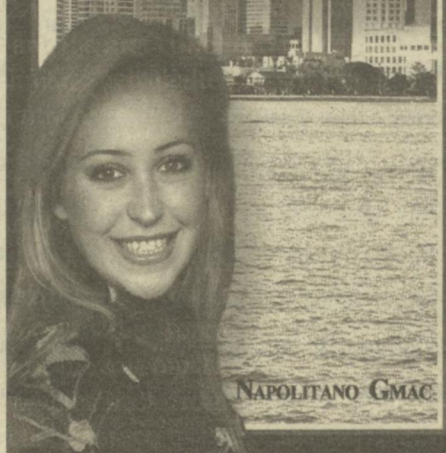
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public safety report

[MARCH 3-8]



MONDAY, MARCH 3

San Gabriel Hall: At 11:16 a.m. Public Safety responded to a complaint of excessively loud music coming from a residence hall room. Upon investigation the resident was contacted and complied with the request to turn the music down.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Torero Grille: At 1:43 p.m. Public Safety responded to a report of a counterfeit 50 dollar bill that had been exchanged for

smaller denomination bills. Upon investigation the cashier could not remember the description of the individual that exchanged the 50 dollar bill. The bill was turned over to the Secret Service for further investigation.

Maher Hall: At 6:33 p.m. Public Safety responded to a report of an odor of smoke in Maher Hall. Upon investigation smoke was observed outdoors in the north courtyard area. Two reams of copy paper were found smoldering on top of a concrete bench. The fire was immediately extinguished by Public Safety officers.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

University Center: At

1:54 p.m. Public Safety responded to a report of graffiti written with a permanent marker on a stall in the men's restroom. Upon investigation the graffiti was photographed and Facilities Management was contacted to remove the graffiti from the restroom stall.

Loma Hall: At 2:11 p.m. Public Safety responded to a report of a threatening e-mail received by a university professor. Upon investigation the e-mail was determined to be a hoax per an FBI website. The professor did not wish to notify SDPD of the incident.

Laguna Hall: At 10:44 p.m. Resident Assistants cited nine resident students for minor in possession.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Print Shop: At 11:31 a.m. Public Safety responded to a report of a suspicious individual contacting university employees and asking for money. Upon investigation, the individual was contacted and determined to have been previously affiliated with the university. She was advised that she is only permitted to be on campus if conducting official business. The individual is described as a white female, wearing a long green shirt and blue jeans with long brown hair.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Avila: At 10:13 a.m. Public Safety responded to a report of a suspicious individual

that was possibly injecting himself with an ink pen. Upon investigation the individual was contacted, identified and advised that should he return to campus he would be subject to possible arrest for trespassing. The individual is described as a 34-year-old Asian male, 5'8" and 150 pounds.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Maher Hall: At 2:16 p.m. Public Safety responded to a report of graffiti spray painted on a wall in a residence hall area. Upon investigation Facilities Management was contacted to remove the graffiti from the wall.

Robots invaden Sports Arena de San Diego

BY DANIEL HERRERA
STAFF WRITER

Este fin de semana el Sports Arena de San Diego va a ser invadido por robots. Pero no se preocupe, es solamente para una competencia. Este evento es reconocido como la primera competencia robótica a nivel mundial. Esta competencia es de gran interés internacional; equipos profesionales y estudiantes jóvenes trabajan juntos para confeccionar y resolver problemas de ingeniería de una manera ágil. La competencia ayuda a los estudiantes a aplicar sus conocimientos y al mismo tiempo se divierten. Cada año llegan a participar

más de 20,000 estudiantes en esta competencia, los cuales forman más que 900 equipos a nivel internacional. La mayoría de los equipos son prove-

que requieren mucho tiempo de planeación, dedicación y esfuerzo de los equipos para terminar los proyectos a la hora estimada.

ros recuerdan que la primera razón por la que escogieron su profesión fue por su interés en los robots. Las empresas que participan en esta competencia

relacionadas con la tecnología ofrecen un gran número de oportunidades donde los proyectos son bastante interesantes y solo requieren de conceptos básicos de ciencia, matemáticas e ingeniería.

Gracias a las donaciones de QUALCOMM este evento tomará lugar en el Sports Arena de San Diego el viernes 7 y sábado 8 de marzo del presente año, las puertas abren a las 8 a.m.

Esta competencia durará dos días, donde se mostrarán robots creados y operados por preparatorias alrededor del mundo. La entrada es gratuita, así que venga y aproveche este evento.

Este evento es reconocido como la primera competencia robotica a nivel mundial. La compentencia ayuda a los estudiantes a aplicar sus conocimientos y al miso tiempo se divierten.

nientes de los Estados Unidos pero también hay participación de otros países como Canadá, Brasil, Ecuador, México e Inglaterra. Estas competencias son de alto rendimiento así

Diferentes colegios, universidades, corporaciones, negocios e individuos ofrecen becas para algunos de los participantes. Al participar en este evento muchos ingenie-

lo hacen para ayudar a diferentes comunidades en impulsar la creación de nuevos ingenieros para el futuro. Gracias a este tipo de eventos los estudiantes se dan cuenta que las carreras

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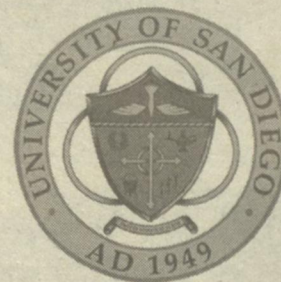
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The Vista
5998 Alcala Park
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CAMPUS FOCUS

Jillian Anthony CF Editor

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Schoolworthy:

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."

- Mark Twain

Springing forward



BY JILLIAN ANTHONY
CAMPUS FOCUS EDITOR

It's midterm week. Make your procrastination of studying more fruitful and read this instead of watching mindless television.

It's my second semester of sophomore year. Spring break is days away. I have three midterms this week, which I will study for in between tanning, and suddenly I'm beginning to realize something.

Fellow sophomores, we are almost halfway done with our college experience. I'm done with half of the all-nighters due to studying, half of the all-nighters due to a Friday night with friends that is so good I postpone going to sleep until the sun starts to rise, half of the headache, half of the love, half of the awkward moments, half of those breathtaking ocean sunsets, half of the creepy and entertaining parts of dorm living, half of those amazing basketball victories, half of the classes, half of the trips to Santana's at 4 a.m. where you happen to run into most of the student body. Half. Gone.

And seniors, I feel for you. If I'm scared now I can't imagine how you must feel. But all of you have the rest of your lives ahead of you. Now that's exciting. Just think of all the money you'll save because you'll be too exhausted to go out after work!

Really, I jest. But for those of us who still have a relatively substantial amount of time left here in this gorgeous school and city, just a quick reminder to try and appreciate it. Times get rough. Sometimes it just seems like life runs up behind you and pushes you into Tecolote Canyon directly whereafter a rabid raccoon attacks your legs. But hey, your days of running quickly away from a hissing raccoon outside of Aromas will soon be over, and believe it or not, you will miss them.

Zumba breaks a sweat and packs a beat

BY KARA KIMBALL
GUEST WRITER

Sometimes going to the gym is a daunting idea; all the weights and machines can get so confusing. Now, Fit-N-Active, part of drop-in fitness, has created a new and unique class that everyone can take to get a good workout and have a great time doing it. Megan Pitzen, a junior business major, brought Zumba to the Missions Fitness Center. She took the class at another fitness center over the summer and "fell in love." It is a one-hour workout that produces great results. When asked why she created the fitness class, Pitzen said, "I love to dance and goof around and Zumba focused that energy I had into a work out."

Zumba is an interval workout that is a high energy, very active, upbeat workout where the participants dance to club mixes, salsa or pop songs like Shakira's "Hips Don't Lie" to coordinate with the heart-beat. It tones the arms, legs, shoulders and especially your core with various alterations to basic Latin-inspired moves including salsa, merengue, cumbia and flamenco. The class incorporates these classic dance moves with exercise concepts like crunches, lunges

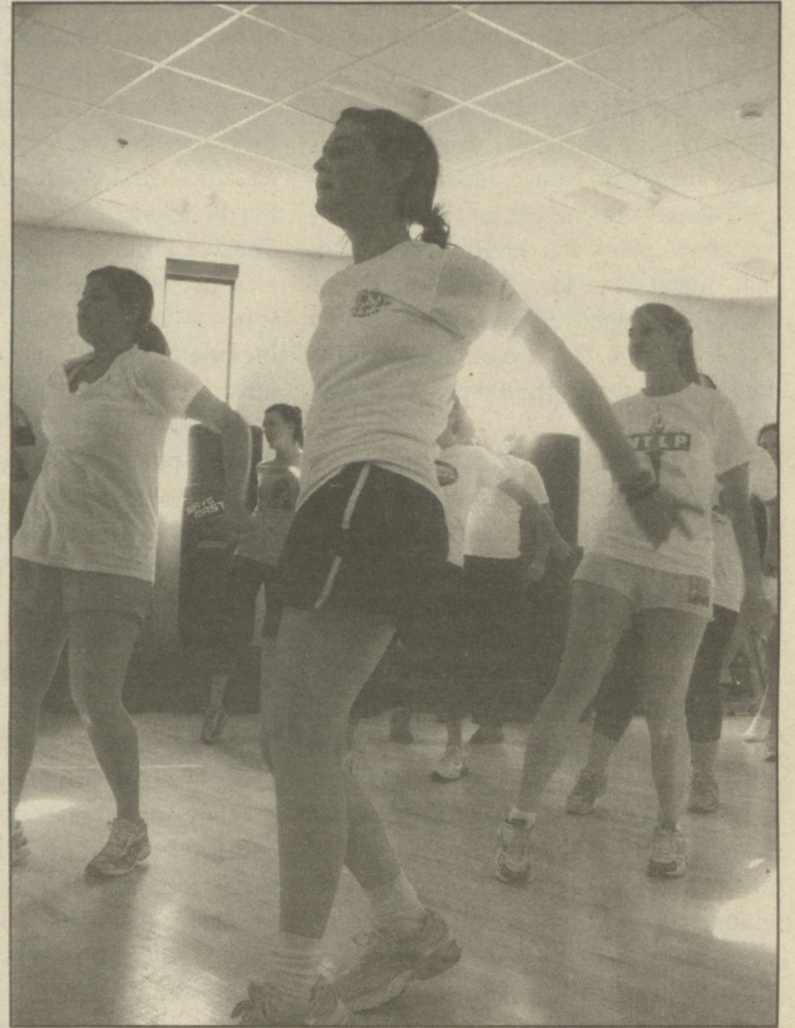
and cardio. Each song, whether it be merengue or salsa, triggers a different movement particular to the song's country of origin. The class ends with a cool-down of stretching.

Watching the students of the Zumba class, one can see how enthusiastic and enjoyable the class really is. Not only are they having fun but they are also burning calories at the same time.

Pitzen is the perfect instructor for the course with her positive attitude and extraordinary dance moves. Her goal with the class is to create for students a "fun, movement-filled workout that they can walk away from energized and revitalized." Each class is different and is catered to the particular skill level of the students. So if you are a multiple-time Zumba participant, expect a newer and more unique class than the one you previously took.

Many people seem to enjoy this type of workout because the room is often full. Pitzen is always recruiting more people to take her class. Zumba is an important class to offer on campus because, according to Pitzen, it is not only a work-out, but it helps build morale.

"I know personally after an hour of Zumba that I feel phenomenal and ready for what-



COURTESY OF KARA KIMBALL

Junior Gaby Lacayo, sophomore Ally Page, and sophomore Kristin Drury get quality exercise in while shaking it on the dance floor.

ever the rest of the day brings," Pitzen said.

Having a fun and energetic workout is completely different than the monotony of going to the gym three times a week. Zumba, and other classes similar to it, help make exercise a

regularity in daily life. Zumba could become part of the college student's daily routine without feeling as if one is forced to go to the gym.

Zumba is held Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p.m. in the Missions Fitness Center.

Free Culture Club fights for absolute free speech

BY JILLIAN ANTHONY
CAMPUS FOCUS EDITOR

McDonald's has a patent on the particular smell of their french fries. Harley Davidson motorcycles owns the unique sound that their motorcycle engines make. The University of San Diego trademarked a specific color of blue and titled it Torero Blue. Today corporations everywhere own not only brands, catchphrases and advertising jingles, but also colors, smells, tastes and even sounds.

Students for Free Culture Club fights against this ownership of entities that members believe should be shared by everyone, not owned by a business.

Freeculture.org explains, "A free culture is one where all members are free to participate in its transmission and evolution, without artificial limits on who can participate or in what way."

Students who support free culture at college campuses across the country strive

to uphold this creed. It was originally founded at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, and USD now joins groups at campuses such as Harvard, Columbia and USC in the fight for free information that is openly and cooperatively exchanged. The idea began after Lawrence Lessig, a professor at Stanford, wrote a book, "Free Culture," based on the idea that in today's day and age of widespread technology that is constantly and rapidly growing, music and multimedia can no longer be held to a hard copy mentality.

"We want to pump public ownership of culture," said Sam Woolley, president of the club. "It belongs to all of us. Culture is created collaboratively, so why should one person control it?"

"Students usually express surprise when finding out how culture is locked up and privately owned," said club advisor Dr. Esteban del Río. "Because stories, or culture, makes us who we are and determines how we see the

world, the private ownership of culture raises serious questions. Lots of people are now advocating a more open and participatory culture. Students for Free Culture is one such group."

According to the organization's manifesto, the mission of the club is to completely democratize information and make the creation of culture more about participation rather than consumption.

"We are focused on media and the fact that most of American culture is privately owned and not in favor of musicians or authors but in favor of publications that are exploiting artists," Woolley said.

As part of their goal to make information truly free, Free Culture Club takes on projects to fight against institutions that are contrary to their ideals. They sponsor subvertising, the creation of fake advertisements that send a message of disapproval of big companies that market to kids. They also hope to incorporate a free speech zone on campus, a 10-by-10

space for students to post, say or express whatever they want completely out of USD's jurisdiction. In the future the club will organize an event where musicians, authors, poets, artists and orators can gather and openly share ideas and work.

Other mainstream artists are beginning to recognize the movement as well. Rock band Radiohead recently released their new album without a specified cost; the consumer could pay however much or little they desired.

"[Radiohead] wanted to make a statement that it should be up to the consumer and artist," Woolley said, "not the middleman making money off of creative people."

The club continues its battle for free speech and free information, creating an environment of effective grassroots organizations that have a real say in the development of our country's own free culture. To get involved with the club, join the facebook group, or e-mail Sam Woolley at woolley-09@sandiego.edu.

Students raise awareness for hunger and homelessness

BY KARA KIMBALL
GUEST WRITER

It has been hard to avoid the signs of hunger and homelessness on USD's campus. Whether it was a display of statistics in the UC, heaps of cardboard and duct tape, or signs saying "Just Acknowledge Me" or "A Smile Will Do," the issue was practically unavoidable. It was all part of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, put on by University Ministry and the Romero Center. The intent was to inform students of the problem and discover ways to get involved with the social justice issue that affects nearly 10,000 people in San Diego County.

In the 1980s, federal funds were withdrawn from low-income housing and social assistance programs for low-income families and the mentally ill, and the number of homeless people exploded.

On any given night, approximately 750,000 men, women and children are homeless in the United States. In rural areas, families, single mothers and children make up the largest group of people who are homeless. Twenty-five percent of homeless men are U.S. military veterans, another 25 percent are children under the age of 18 and 35 percent are families with children. Now, organizations across the country, and even here in San Diego such as San Diego Rescue Mission and the San Diego Organizing Project, are working to reverse the effects of nearly 30 years of hunger and homelessness through charity and seek-

ing justice in legislation.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week was a week packed full of events including a weeklong "box village," a homelessness simulation, and a lecture by USD alum Joey McKellar from San Diego Organizing Project, a candlelight vigil, a lecture from the San Diego Rescue Mission and a "Sing For Freedom" event at Aromas. The week culminated in a service project aimed at runaway teens followed by a bonfire at the beach. The events sought to inform the USD community of the issue and provide tangible ways to put an end to homelessness. The goal of "rehumanizing" the homeless community was a theme at every event. This means simply affirming their inherent value by acknowledging their existence with a smile or a conversation, not necessarily a \$20 bill.

At the homelessness simulation, students struggled to find a job that could pay for housing, transportation, healthcare and food — all necessities. We saw that even working men and women struggle to survive the high costs of living in San Diego. At the box village, students left the comfort of their dorm rooms to sleep outside for one night in solidarity with the San Diego homeless community, participants created a "home" (complete with a working door) out of cardboard and got cozy for a night in front of the UC, enjoying the luxuries of a sleeping



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTIA

Students gather at the box village to spend the night. Sleeping outside the UC, the students got a small glimpse of what it would be like to be homeless and sleep on the streets.

bag and the Maher bathrooms and, of course, the students passing by at 2 a.m. on a Tuesday night, begging the question, "Don't you have class tomorrow?"

As box villagers, students spent time reflecting on the event and our emotions surrounding it. Sophomore Hannah Evans, who led the reflection on Wednesday morning, asked, "What do you think the hardest part about being homeless would be?"

At another event, the San Diego Rescue Mission provided information on their Christ-centered rehabilitation programs and emergency shelters, as well as displaying their heart for the homeless and hungry in San Diego. They also

gave out a sweet magnet, which I now have on my refrigerator, sandwiched between a "Save the Date" wedding announcement and my roommate's "I hate cuddling" magnet.

The events of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week were not only informative but also personally challenging. If you missed it this year, don't worry, it will be back next year. If you want to get involved, visit the University Ministry office or the Romero Center. You can also check out www.sdrescue.org (San Diego Rescue Mission) or www.studentsagainsthunger.org (National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness).

Event Calendar

March 25

Academic Advising Session for Transfer Students. Serra Hall 204, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Election Discussion: Democracy Matters. Discussion held in UC 103 A/B@ 1:15 p.m.

March 26

San Diego City Attorney Debate of the four leading candidates in the IPJ @ 6 p.m.

March 27

Foundation Laying of the New Student Life Pavilion, replacing the UC. All students are invited to mark this special occasion and take a historic photograph @ 12:30 p.m.

The photo will be displayed in the new Pavilion once it is opened. Refreshments will be served.

Classifieds

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Editor in Chief Mallory Nachtsheim mallory@usdvista.com

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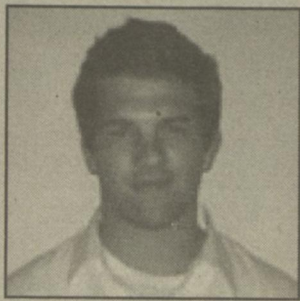
OPINION

Alex Antone *Opinion Editor* aantone@usdvista.com

"Make sure you have a different opinion and people will talk about you."

-Arab proverb

Alex Antone's quest for the perfect Facebook profile



BY ALEX ANTONE
OPINION EDITOR

A cute girl from my strategic management class sent me a Facebook friend request yesterday. Oh God. Up until then we'd only exchanged playful glances while subtly mocking people as they walked by. But in an unprecedented turn of events, Amber - let's call her Amber - decided to cross the Rubicon and take our unspoken romance to the next level - a Facebook friendship.

Out of excitement I had nearly clicked "accept" before I suddenly realized the possible consequences of a near-disastrous decision. Accepting this e-friendship would mean allowing full access to my Facebook

profile and thus giving her free reign to assess me based on my various interests and photographs. This would not pass.

And thus the quest for the perfect profile began. In an act of absolute desperation, I decided that I would strategically construct a complex web of deceit in order to impress Amber come "friendship" time.

Activities: I avoided being pigeonholed by including a wide range of activities from "Drinking mocha Frappuccinos" to "Saving Darfur." Obviously I included my work for the newspaper, but also I added both "Young Democrats Club" and "College Republicans Club" in order to show how politically savvy yet understanding I am.

Interests: There's nothing I hate more than someone who lists everything they've ever done or thought about doing as part of their interests. So I decided to keep it simple by lumping all my interests into two separate but equal categories, "Chilling," and "Being Chill." Who doesn't love a chill guy? I mean, they're so laid back and - chill. Oh I also listed "Family Guy."

Quotes: I wanted to express how fun I am so I listed a quote about being irresponsible and drinking heavily on school nights. I also quoted something about "loving uncontrollably and never regretting anything that once made you smile" in order to show what an untamed free spirit I am.

Photo albums: I realized I couldn't post the pictures of me standing next to Wolverine at Comic-Con so I decided to Photoshop myself into a variety of x-treme activities. For instance, one album titled "Spring Break '07 WOOOO!" showed pictures of me wakeboarding in Baja, bungee jumping in Lima and taking part in a Tai Kwon Do tournament in Seoul. The second photo album consisted of pictures of myself, taken by myself, wearing a variety of hoodies and doing my best to look surprised.

Profile picture: This was the toughest by far. This is the one picture that speaks more than 1,000 words as it's the thing that most often pops up randomly during Facebook stalking sessions. I eventually narrowed it down to three options:

1) A picture of me standing on a cliff and staring off at the sun as it sets over the Pacific as if to say, "the world - it's just so vast."

2) A picture of me taking a beer bong while giving the "shocker" hand sign.

3) Me hanging out with my best friend, except he's cropped out of the picture so you can only see an ear and an eye, and half of his nose.

Once I decided on a combination of all three, I finalized my relationship status (Anything I can get) and accepted Amber's friendship request. It was finished.

The next morning during my routine Facebook check I found one new wall post from Amber.

It read: "Hi Alex, I had no idea you were so - cultured. Anyway I just wanted to know if we had any homework from the class I missed on Friday, I was in Arizona with my boyfriend."

"What?!" I yelled out in anger. "But her relationship status says 'single!'"

What a liar.

Favrewell: football fans say goodbye to a Green Bay god

BY DOUG WOOD
STAFF WRITER

March 4 was a gloomy day indeed in Green Bay, Wisc. Just before noon, amidst family, friends and teammates, a somber-looking Brett Favre sat down for a press conference and confirmed the news that football fans everywhere had been dreading: his retirement from the National Football League. Perhaps the last legendary player of our generation still donning a uniform, Favre will leave the game with unprecedented statistics that reflect his successful career with the Packers.

In 16 seasons with Green Bay, Favre not only broke almost every quarterback record imaginable, he also earned an unbelievable three NFL Most Valuable Player awards and a Super Bowl championship.

But perhaps even more incredible than his ability to pick apart the opposition's defense with a throwing arm that would make even most cannons jealous is the leadership that he exhibited throughout his career. Even in his early seasons, Favre's emotional style of play and constant optimism shined through to deeply impact the play of his teammates. His record 253 consecutive regular season games started is possibly the one that speaks most of his dedication to both his team and his city. As he said in his retirement speech, "It was never about me, it was about everybody else. It just so happens that the position that I played got most of the attention."

Besides his consecutive games started record, Favre retires with 442

touchdowns, 5,377 passes for 61,665 yards and 160 regular season wins, all NFL records. On top of all this, he also holds almost every Packers team record that one can, cementing his name as a legend in Green Bay football lore. Not bad for a Mississippi boy with a big dream and a last name that should be accompanied by a phonetic pronunciation chart (it's "farv," in case you were wondering).

Though his retirement comes as no real surprise - Favre has been hinting at leaving the game after each of the past four seasons - it does come at a strange time. Coming off this past season, where he led his team to the NFC Championship game, many expected Favre to return for one more year in order to finish strong and claim one final Super Bowl ring. But Favre had other feelings, stating that coming so close and losing didn't make him want to come back, but rather confirmed what he already knew -- that he simply didn't have anything more to give. As he said Tuesday, "I know I can play. I just don't think I want to."

So for now it looks like it's actually over. Next season, for the first time in 16 years, the man leading the green and gold will be sporting a number other than the "4" that we've all become so accustomed to; and I can't think of a bigger pair of cleats to fill.

And though Packer Nation will eventually learn to idolize a new gridiron great, their mourning period for Favre has certainly not yet expired. As this past week has been one of incessant sadness for everyone who loved and respected the career of one of foot-

ball's most distinguished stars, there haven't been many dry eyes in the city of Green Bay. As for Favre himself, a man who bawled like a baby during a 1999 press conference concerning his fight with alcohol addiction and who choked out a post-game interview through quiet sobs in a game following his father's death in 2003, wearing

an emotional mask has never been a priority. So it was especially peculiar when he repeatedly apologized for tearing up during his final moments in front of the cameras last week. "I'm sorry," he said as he wiped the tears from his eyes. "I promised I wouldn't get emotional." Don't worry Brett; we would expect nothing less.

**See something you like?
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see your name in print!**

**Submissions should be sent to:
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Whistle blowing

BY JESSE AIZENSTAT
STAFF WRITER

Even after last December's intelligence report that said, "Iran has halted [its] Nuclear weapon program in 2003," president George Bush still paints Iran as an undeterred evil that must be stopped.

It was only a few months back when Bush carelessly used "Iran" and "World War III" in the same sentence, thus fueling a frenzy of speculation on international crude.

Since the blackout years of late Russian President Boris Yeltsin, "Czar Putin," has revolutionized the Russian economy making it dependent on an inflated market for their oil. So Russia sells arms to Syria, thus to militant groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah. Iran touts its nuclear program and calls to "erase Israel from the pages of time." I mean the Middle East sounds like a pretty scary place.

But what about the Iranian President Ahmadinejad? Wasn't he elected to fix a disastrous economy? He has no constitutional power to "erase Israel from the pages of time" so what exactly is he doing?

My Farsi's a little rusty but I think he's saying, "I am fixing the economy!"

That's right! Experts have agreed that approximately 30 percent of today's pump cost is simply based off fear and speculation. Iran and Russia share this vital strategic interest. To inflate price directly feeds the revival of these two regimes.

It's really hard to imagine a more backward policy for the United States, a superpower dependent on cheap fuel. It must be clear: Russian resurgence, Iran's desperation, our gas prices and the illicit moral cue not to eradicate humanity are all connected.

Its time for a Whistle Blower!



PETER CHO / THE VISTA

"Obamaphilia" rampant in the media

BY DARRIN HALL
STAFF WRITER

Why does the media favor Barack Obama? Obama is a likeable character. He is a new face in politics that people seem to be attracted to. In some ways, he is Kennedyesque, with his moving speeches and powerful tone. The media favors Obama because he is marketable. John McCain is an old man and does not give us the drastic change that this country feels the need for. Hillary Clinton is someone who has been in the eye of the media for several years now and people are very familiar with her. Obama brings a powerful new image

to this country and the media is able to exploit that.

Having the media on your side is one of the most important aspects in presidential elections. People rely on the media for their information. What

hear. They could choose any of the candidates to back, and supply the viewer with any information that they wished. Yes, the media is that powerful.

Voters need to be informed in other ways besides just the media. Get on the Internet and read articles that are not biased. Take a look at the issues that the candidates have voted for or against. You may be surprised when you find out what your favorite candidate has voted for in the past. The bottom line is, do not let the media influence

Having the media on your side is one of the most important aspects in presidential elections ... What people need to realize is that they cannot entirely trust the media.

people need to realize is that they cannot entirely trust the media. The media has the ability to give and keep from you only the information they want you to

who you are going to vote for. Do your research and be an informed voter. It is our greatest right as Americans to do so.

so.

Party divide runs deeper than debt and demographics

BY MARIETTE
NASCIMENTO
STAFF WRITER

Reports that a "60 Minutes" broadcast containing a segment on Don Siegelman, former governor of Alabama, was blocked out for some residents of Alabama has left the public in a tizzy. As soon as news was received that many residents of Alabama viewed a blacked out screen, the attacks began. Accusations that we live in "Soviet America" ran rampant and any opportunity for a stab at our dear George W. Bush was seized before one could say carpe diem. Don't people have anything better to do than jump to conclusions? The last thing we need from Michael Bolton's co-worker is a Jump to Conclusions mat, made famous by "Office Space." Our impatience as a country applies not only to caramel macchiatos, but also to conspiracy theories! We simply can't wait for

anything.

Don Siegelman was a Democratic governor of Alabama who is currently serving a seven-year sentence for bribery. The case and trial of this ex-governor sparked wide controversy as extreme left-wing Americans claimed Siegelman was sentenced solely for being a Democrat. Yes, they are serious with this claim and it is true neither case nor trial was black and white. Some sketchy occurrences logically led to suspicions for his supporters. The suspicions are not just limited to Democrats - a number of Republican government officials consider the case controversial and are in favor of further investigations. So why was he thrown in prison for being a Democrat? Well, supposedly he was viewed as a "looming threat" in a largely Republican state. Poor Siegelman, the problems only continued.

"60 Minutes" decided to air a 13-minute segment regarding the complications of his case. The segment did not appear on TV screens across certain

counties in Alabama. Viewers were told there was a technical difficulty with CBS in New York. That doesn't sound right. If it's true that there were difficulties in New York, why would Alabama be the only state affected? We now know that CBS News stated there was not a technical difficulty, glitch or whatever you want to call it. The problem with airing the broadcast was also not due to a transmission error, as the local channel had the signal and no problem with transmitters. Evidence points to Channel 19, WHNT, as guilty. There was "a technical failure of a piece of equipment," the news director of Channel 19 wrote in his defense. The first eight minutes were lost as a result of the failure, but the last five minutes of the segment still aired. So where do we go from here?

Surely the comforting words of the Channel 19 news director will not satisfy the frightened minds of many and questions will continue to arise. At least CBS News is off the hook as the spotlight turns to the Alabama af-

filiate. If it's true that there was a technical difficulty with equipment for WHNT, this dramatization will prove just how ridiculous going to the extremes can be. Besides, why would Channel 19 do this to itself? The mess is going to take weeks to recuperate from and directors at the station would have anticipated such repercussions before purposely blocking a CBS broadcast. I don't think anyone would want countless belligerent e-mails and phone calls claiming we live in Soviet America no matter how much they disliked Siegelman. But wait! No one would purposely do that of their own free will! Could it be that Channel 19 received pressure from an outside source to block the broadcast? Could it be that a conspiracy really is lurking under this maddening mess? Just remember that no matter how much you think you know, there are conniving politicians everywhere, and here comes the surprise - they aren't just Republicans!

The internet revolts against the Church of Scientology

BY PETER CHO
STAFF WRITER

It was like something out of a movie. On Feb. 10, 2008, more than 7,000 people protested at Church of Scientology buildings in 93 cities around the world. Many of them wore Guy Fawkes masks, and most of the others covered their face with bandanas and scarves to protect their identities. They held picket signs scrawled with slogans like "Scientology Kills" and "Salvation is FREE."

The group responsible goes by the name "Anonymous," and is a motley crew consisting mostly of internet-savvy teenagers and 20-somethings. According to their Wikipedia entry, they are "not tied to any monolithic group" but the moniker is considered a blanket term for "members of the Internet culture."

After a promotional video for the Church of Scientology featuring Tom Cruise was leaked onto the Internet in January 2008, the Church requested its removal from YouTube, who complied. After Gawker.com decided to host a copy, the church unleashed its lawyers. This led to outrage among some of the communities on the Internet, who were irked by what they saw as censorship.

"Anonymous" proceeded to declare war on the Church via a YouTube video titled "Message to Scientology," which as of writing has over 2.5 million views. Without a visible leader or organization leading the "attack," it seemed unlikely that it would head anywhere.

The war in Iraq, waterboarding, oil prices, wiretapping, and Facebook adding news feeds, these are all hot topics that people have gotten pissed about on the Internet. Typically, people on the Internet will complain for a few weeks but get over it. For some reason or another this time, people didn't get over it.

The group attacked the church with a vengeance, carrying out a modern-day



COURTESY OF PAUL WILLIAMS

Protesters at an anti-Scientology rally wear Guy Fawkes masks in order to conceal their identities.

holy war against the Church. They used distributed denial-of-service attacks on the main Scientology website, rendering the website unusable. The Scientologists were forced to move to a new host that specialized in combating such attacks. "Anonymous" proceeded to black-fax, prank call and do whatever they could to impede the operations of the Church.

Using websites such as Digg.com and Reddit.com, "Anonymous" mobilized people to protest against the church. Spurred on by a YouTube video titled "Call to Action," with nearly 700,000 views, people began to organize real world protests. Beyond a set of guidelines to follow while protesting, there was no instruction to the people orga-

nizing protests. There wasn't one leader giving commands or issuing orders. It was a decentralized effort with people all over the world gathering with like-minded people to rally against a perceived threat.

What amazed me most was that people all over the globe managed to organize and collaborate, eventually gathering to protest in 93 different cities on the same day. The next wide scale protest is set for March 15. No one person sat down and picked 93 cities to protest in, no one person assembled a plan of attack. It all happened organically. Ideas were spread, dates were offered and people adopted them.

Events like this are making it clear

that information can disseminate very quickly through the Internet. "Anonymous" acts as the modern day Sons of Liberty, gathering people through modernized methods to oppose their perceived oppressors. Public speeches are now public websites; secret notes now secret e-mails. Calls to action no longer take place in marketplaces, but through Facebook group invitations. The tools and processes of modern-day revolutions have changed. The question is whether this revolt against Scientology will spur action amongst others our generation, as they realize that they can start a revolution with a modem and a Guy Fawkes mask. What will be the subject of the next revolution?

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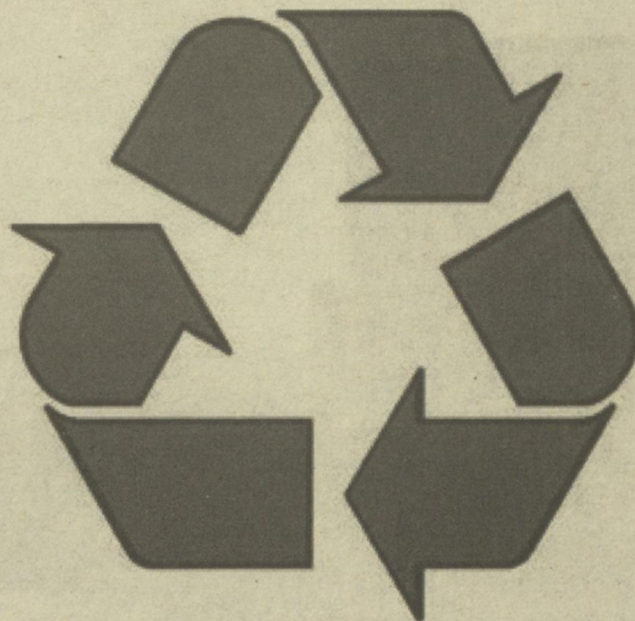
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Available options for spending spring break in San Diego

BY JENNA JAY
ASST. FEATURE EDITOR

March madness has flooded southern California once again, and not just for Torero basketball.

Tourists are trickling back to San Diego beaches and thanks to daylight savings one more precious hour of sunlight graces the skyline every day. Along with each inkling of spring comes the ever-anticipated college event: spring break.

This year's vacation features a one-of-a-kind schedule for all students, including both Cadbury eggs and green beer in the same week off from school.

Along with enjoying the events of break without classes come new and alternative ways for students to spend St. Patrick's Day and/or Easter this year, especially for those opting out of popular but costly getaways such as Cabo, Costa Rica and Las Vegas.

Some campus organizations recognize an opportunity for venture or service during spring break, which this year falls during Holy Week.

The Romero Center is sending a group of 21 students to spring break in Mexico on the annual Tijuana Spring Breakthrough trip March 14 to 19. This service experience includes living amongst and helping communities across the US border in Tijuana, Mexico.

"A typical day ranges from hands-on physical labor, to listening to stories of people who have tried to cross the border, to celebrating with communities," said Kelly Martin, staff coordinator and associate university minister for University Ministry.

Students who partake in the Tijuana trip walk the other side of the fence, participating in house-building, visiting homes for children, the sick and elderly, and spending time in prayer and reflection.

Outdoor Adventures also hosts a spring break trip to Mexico, collaborating with UCSD in the La Bellota Horseback Riding trip in

Ensenada March 22 to 24.

Through Outdoor Adventures, students also have the option of backpacking in Havasupai, Grand Canyon, which is offered March 14 to 19.

"Every year we offer a spring break and Thanksgiving trip," said Jeremiah Gray, assistant director for Outdoor Programs. "Trips include all the gear and food you need."

San Diego also offers an abundance of activities and spring destinations for students who choose to stay by the comfort of the beach during vacation.

Balboa Park is home to many museums and gardens thriving in the springtime, including an Easter lily display in the Botanical Building starting March 14.

The San Diego Zoo is also a popular spring destination, and adult tickets are available for the children's rate through March 14.

Although the Catholic Church has moved St. Patrick's Day from Monday, March 17 to the previous Saturday (March 15) due to conflict concerning Holy Week, downtown San Diego will still go green March 17, hosting ShamROCK, the St. Patrick's Day festival in the Gaslamp. The event features traditional Irish music and drink, complete with more than 40,000 square feet of green AstroTurf lining Fifth Avenue.

The Padres also provide students with nearby entertainment, as spring training runs through March 26 in Peoria, Ariz. The team concludes its spring training with a game at PETCO Park March 28 versus the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at 7:05 p.m.

Spring athletics also include the beginnings of March Madness, and this year's tournament is sure to draw record attention with the Toreros in the big dance after beating Gonzaga to win the West Coast Conference tournament.


The opening round of the NCAA tournament begins March 18, with first and second round games played throughout the week.





RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA


Surfing is one of the most popular pastimes of San Diego visitors and locals. It is also a perfect way to spend one of the spring break vacation days.


Activities around San Diego


 **Mission Beach:** The beach is always a popular vacation spot for students to surf and enjoy the sunshine.

 **Downtown:** On March 17 the Gaslamp District will be putting on ShamROCK, with a variety of bands and entertainment for St. Patrick's Day.

 **Balboa Park:** Featuring an Easter lily display in the botanical gardens starting March 14.

 **Petco Park:** The Padres will be playing a spring training game March 28 versus the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

 **San Diego Zoo:** Tickets for adults are available at the children's price through March 14.

 **Tijuana:** The Oscar Romero Center is taking a group of students to Tijuana to aid in community building.



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

San Diego's beaches, downtown nightlife and outdoor recreational activities offer a variety of options for students to choose from over spring break.



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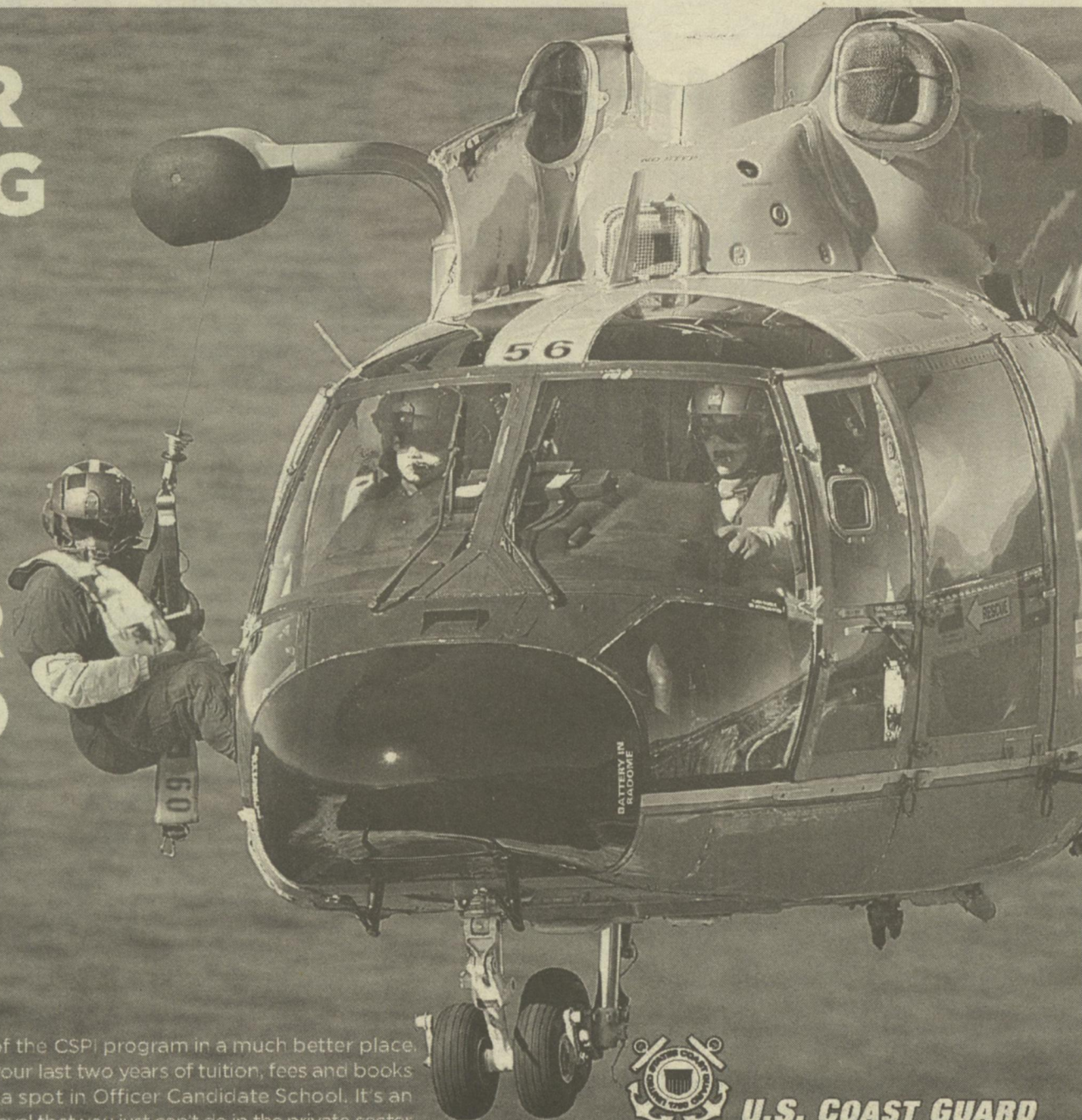
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ARTS & CULTURE

Kaitlin Perry

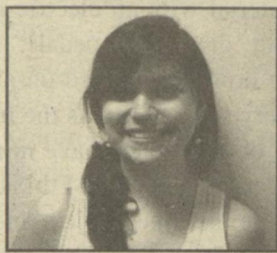
A & C Editor

kperry@usdvista.com

Cultureworthy:

"Reexamine all you have been told at church or school
or in any book, dismiss whatever insults your own soul,
and your very flesh shall be a great poem and
have richest fluency."
-Walt Whitman

Not all celebrities are stupid



BY KAITLIN PERRY
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

I recently read an interview with Natalie Portman on *elle.com* that truly inspired me to do more with my life.

Not only is Portman beautiful and famous and successful, but she also graduated from Harvard, truly supports different charities and organizations, designs shoes and just started her own production company, *handsomecharlie* films, named after her late dog.

Besides all of these amazing things, Portman has the most self-respect of any celebrity out there and has always kept her poise. I have never seen a picture of her partying or being weird in public. She attends the most prestigious events, both fashion and film, and is good friends with Zac Posen, a well-known designer. She also has a very good sense of humor.

If you missed the SNL episode a year or two ago that Natalie Portman hosted, you missed one of the funniest digital shorts ever made.

The digital short consists of Portman rapping about how even though she has done all these respectable things, she's pretty much a gangster and did all of those things while under the influence of drugs. And drinking. And fighting. Which I'm pretty sure isn't true.

While I may sound jealous, I admire her more than I envy her. Seeing someone that is able to do so many strenuous things on a regular basis is proof that all is possible.

I stress out about writing this short column, studying for an hour and returning phone calls. When I look at the big picture, I see that I am capable of so much more. Now that I know all of my responsibilities will not kill me, I can conquer them in peace, knowing that there is a celebrity role model out there who has done the same and continues to accomplish things every day.

Portman's current movie, "The Other Boleyn Girl," is in theaters now.

A unique music and shopping experience *Kitsuné Maison proves itself to be eclectic, innovative and engaging*

BY KIRBY BROOKS
STAFF WRITER

Clothing line? Check. Music label? Check. Lifestyle? Check. Kitsuné Maison's latest clothing line proves that the French still hold the title for effortlessly chic. Formed in Paris in 2001 by Masya Kuroki, Patrick Lacy, Gildas Loaec, Benjamin Reichen, Kajsa Stahl and Maki Suzuki, the French label has since expanded into an entire Kitsuné lifestyle brand. Their classic aesthetic has translated into art, music and home décor as part of a movement that shows no signs of slowing down.

Kitsuné, the Japanese word for fox, reinvents traditional clothing items like the cardigan and skinny jean. Their aesthetic is prep school cool; think Sorbonne student, not Abercrombie and Fitch. Their 2008 line features nautical elements seen in striped tees and navy blazers that reinforce their penchant for classic lines coupled with contemporary European glamour. Among the Kitsuné Maison staples are the heavy v-neck sweaters and piqued collared shirts that pay tribute to Lacoste, with tiny foxes emblazoned on the breast pockets. Kitsuné has collaborated with shoe designer extraordinaire Pierre Hardy, of Balenciaga and Hermes fame, on a shoe line that compliments their trademark preppy élan. The

line has also formed a partnership with fellow French label APC, with whom they share a similar approach to fashion.

Kitsuné Maison clothing is sold at exclusive shops, ranging from London's avant-garde Dover Street Market to preeminent Parisian boutique Colette. As the line garners praise across

Curve, located on paparazzi-saturated Robertson Boulevard in Los Angeles. This month marks the opening of the label's exclusive boutique in Paris, located at 52 rue Richelieu. The store will feature Kitsuné Maison's complete menswear and womenswear lines as well as their music compilations, art ventures and home

was an all-encompassing Kitsuné Maison experience, featuring the popular Pasolini line and original artwork.

While waiting to perfect their fashion line Kitsuné Maison dipped into the electronic music pool in 2002 and hasn't looked back since. With the original aid of iconic French electronic duos Air and Daft Punk, the label took off running and its praise now rivals that of the fashion component. The Kitsuné Maison electronic music label has featured artists such as The Klaxons, Bloc Party, Wolfmother, Does It Offend You Yeah? and The Rapture. Kitsuné Maison's traveling dance parties have become legendary, with events held at under the radar nightclubs like The Beatrice Inn in NYC's West Village. The label just released its fifth music compilation, with tracks from CSS, The Teenagers, M.I.A., Cazals, Digitalism and David E. Sugar, among others. In addition to appearing in Kitsuné Maison's freshest compilation, New York-based duo Fischerspooner has also signed with the label to produce two new singles, "The Best Revenge" and "Danse en France," both from their impending third album. Kitsuné Maison dance compilations are now available on iTunes. Check out their MySpace page at www.myspace.com/maisonkitsune or www.kitsune.fr.



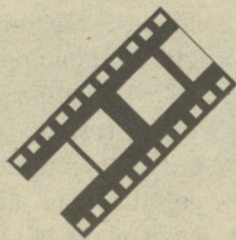
COURTESY OF KITSUNE MAISON

The latest of five compilation mixes released by Kitsune Maison.

the globe, the company is now reaching out to Sweden, China, Germany, Japan, UK, Australia, Spain, Dubai, Singapore, Russia and Italy. Stateside you can find Kitsuné clothing at Jeffery New York in New York City and The

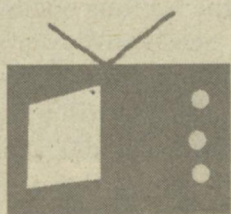
décor items; the Black Sesame Ice Cream candle is an insider favorite. This past fall Kitsuné Maison showed a temporary collection at the Go Gallery in Milan, as part of their traveling exhibit, "Boutique Kitsuné Maison." The display

Editor's picks - experimenting with your attention span and patience



"Amelie"

A wonderful French film starring the adorable Audrey Tautou that pays special attention to photography media such as Polaroids and a photobooth, as well as the way people tick. You will have a fun time watching it, even though there are subtitles.



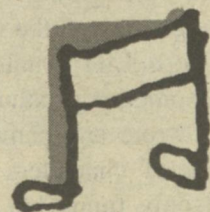
Any show on DVD

Spring break serves as a great time to watch the shows you've wanted to see on DVD. If you're traveling, watch them on your laptop. If you're not, watch them on your couch while you take some time off to relax and regroup at home and take a well-deserved break.



"Performance"

A rock n' roll mind-bender directed by Nicolas Roeg and Donald Cammell that stars Mick Jagger in his first movie role. It is described as a "psychedelic time capsule" that is "ahead of its time." Being shown March 13 at 7 p.m. at MCASD La Jolla.



Why?

"Simeon's Dilemma"

Why?, an indie and kind of rap band that combines all different styles of music, released their most recent album "Alopecia" March 11. "Simeon's Dilemma" is a song that is kind of sad but very honest with really fun sounds in the background.

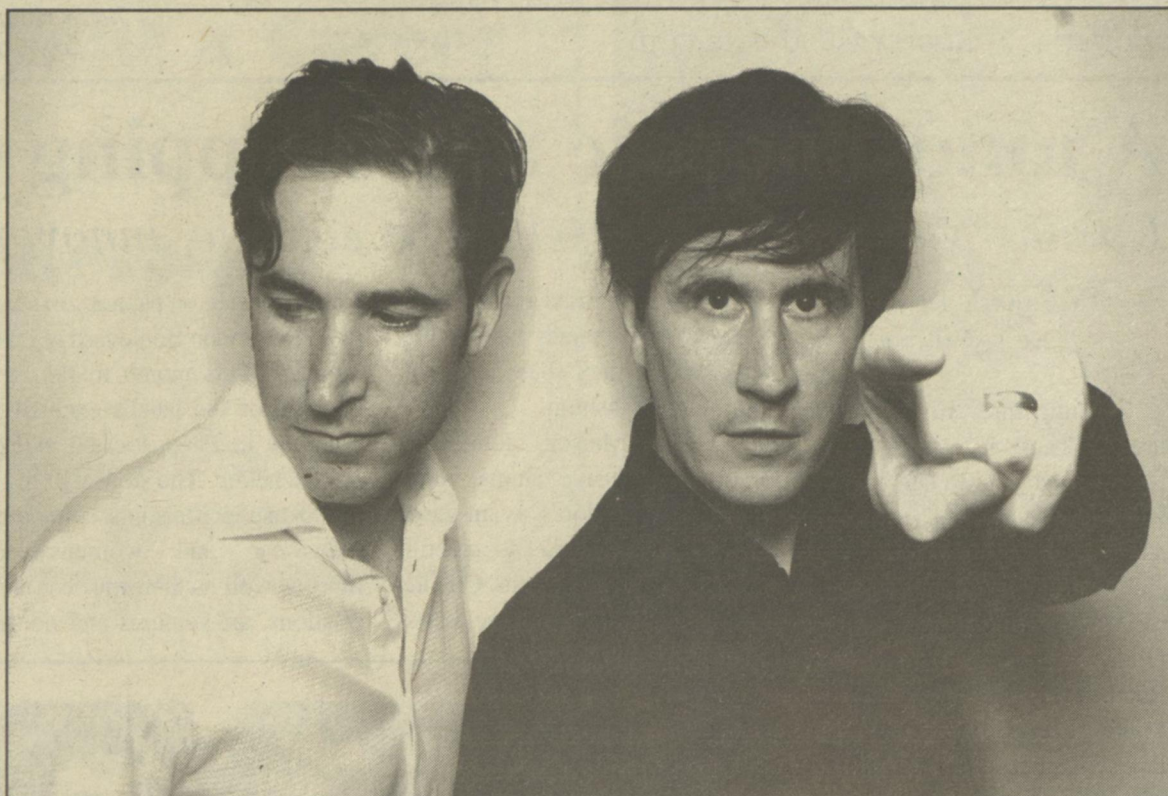
The Mountain Goats disappoint one fan in concert

BY EVAN SMITH
GUEST WRITER

Touring off their new album, "Heretic Pride," indie rock band the Mountain Goats performed March 4 and 5 at the Troubador in West Hollywood. They were very good, but did not live up to my fullest expectations.

Singer/songwriter John Darnielle, who has been making music since 1991, is the only constant member of the Goats. There have been numerous bassists, drummers and other collaborators. Darnielle was known for the low-fi recording style of his music, usually recording acoustically at home with an inexpensive Panasonic tape recorder. During the '90s the Mountain Goats, along with Pavement, Sebadoh, Neutral Milk Hotel and Daniel Johnston, defined a sound that was lacking in production. Bands took pride in sounding a little bit rough around the edges.

Darnielle released a ridicu-



COURTESY OF MARK VAN S.

The Mountain Goats want YOU to listen to them. Their newest release, "Heretic Pride," is in stores now.

lously large amount of low-fi music and eventually began to write some pretty brilliant songs and was signed to the 4AD label. Since then he has

made several studio albums with a more traditional recording style. Although these albums have some great songs on them, they seem to have lost

something; they do not have the grit of the low-fi stuff.

There is a good chance that I am just oblivious of the brilliance of the new material. I

might be just like the people who scoffed at Bob Dylan when he started playing an electric guitar. The fact is that change is scary and I like what I am familiar with. Seeing the Mountain Goats live made me want to go to that familiar place more than ever.

Unfortunately, the show was not entirely what I expected. Darnielle played mostly new material with an electric guitar with distortion pedals. Also, the drummer played on almost every song, whereas the majority of MG songs have minimal percussion in them. I think Darnielle just likes to jam and it is fun for him to play like this, but it was not what I wanted.

Luckily, Darnielle kicked the rest of the band off the stage both nights and played a few of his old tunes. He had us all singing along and we even helped him with lyrics that he forgot. He told us stories about his songs and made us laugh; everyone was smiling.



COURTESY OF WWW.DORM-LIFE.COM

A new episode is featured every Monday until the finale in June.

"Dorm-Life" hits big online

BY CARRIE WIDDER
Asst. A&C Editor

This month's webisode craze is a little mockumentary called "Dorm-Life" available on www.dorm-life.com.

This website was created by current and former UCLA students who met while part of the UCLA comedy production team, Spring Sing Company. The group with the ideas behind "Dorm Life" wanted to produce something concrete. Members wrote and came up with a lot of characters that were not only funny but also very true to the experience of freshman dorm life.

"Dorm-Life" was eventually picked up by a production company called Attention Span Media, which meant higher quality production and an extensive interactive website for the piece. Rather than the standard route of film or television mediums, the creators of "Dorm-Life" opted for the internet to be their means of displaying the show, with short comedic episodes designed

for the college-age audience, as well as weekly updated web cam videos featuring the characters. Having the website along with Facebook, MySpace and Youtube surely guarantees that "Dorm-Life" will be receiving lots of free advertising with its target viewers.

Take your freshman year in the dorms, add a little eccentricity, and you get "Dorm-Life." The pilot episode takes us back to that first week of college, meeting your roommate for the first time, meeting your R.A. who may or may not have a control issue, talking to that guy who is still dating his girlfriend in high school, the guys who party, the girl from the small town who doesn't get out much, and so on. Overall, this show touches on a lot of relevant points in a way that will make you laugh.

So if you have 10 minutes and need to stimulate your brain with something other than the looming thought of that economics midterm tomorrow, go to www.dorm-life.com.

Ricci stars in a new type of fairytale

BY BRYN EVERETT
STAFF WRITER

Every few years, maybe even more often than we would like, there is a film about the ugly duckling that longs for acceptance and looks for a man to love her just the way she is. This season, this theme comes in the form of the film "Penelope," starring Christina Ricci.

The film depicts the fairytale of a young woman who bears an archaic family curse. Ricci stars as a girl born with a pig nose that has been unluckily cast down upon her. She is told the only way the curse will go away is to have "blue blood" or a wealthy person of her own kind love her for who she is.

Type A Films released this film nearly two years after production had wrapped and that timing is still a mystery. The cast includes a mixture of UK and US actors. The message of "Penelope" is not innovative but it is still good. The film is rated PG and its meaning is clearly intended for children. But the narrative and its overall content seem to be played up for adults. The plot is too slow-paced for a young audience and even some adult viewers may want the end to come sooner. However, the story is charming for adults and children alike.

Penelope is first introduced to us when she narrates

the story of how her family became cursed and the details of her childhood. She is lonely and singled out by the choices made by her mother, who decides it would be best to lock her away so people do not ridicule her. This only ignites the intrigue into her appearance for everyone including the paparazzi, who want a photo of the little wealthy "pig girl." The artistic direction has the feel of a Tim Burton movie where dark themes are mixed with enchantment.

Penelope's parents set up an extreme dowry for a suitor in hopes that one man will love her and then the curse will be broken. Multiple suitors come but they all flee at the sight of the hideous creature, not even giving Penelope time to speak. Penelope uses a one-way mirror to talk to the gentlemen more for her own delight than anything else. Ricci plays her character strongly and exhibits the strength and intelligence of a girl who knows she is different but doesn't seem to mind being so.

Penelope's mother, played by the comedic Catherine O'Hara, constantly reminds her daughter that the nose in the mirror is not her nose, but rather "her great, great grandfather's nose." By telling her this, her mother is unaware that she is handicapping Penelope from ever accepting

her true self. A reporter who has been persistent in trying to get a picture of the famous girl her entire life hires Max, played by James McAvoy, a down on his luck family heir, to woo Penelope and snatch her picture. McAvoy (well known for "Atonement") plays his character with a hidden charisma that will appeal to audiences and his entrance into the movie marks the point where the plot actually becomes more interesting.

The film's strengths are the scenes where McAvoy and Ricci are together. During much of the middle of the film, time is slowed down and there is unnecessary dialogue. Reese Witherspoon also plays a character in this film. The role is small, and she comes in late; however, her charm will still bring her fans to the theatre.

The end comes with a little twist in the mostly predictable plot and director Mark Palansky wraps things up with a sweetness that will leave the audience smiling. "Penelope" is not a complex film, in that it does not try to be something it is not. It is from the beginning a one-track fairytale. The lesson will most likely hit close to home for young girls, but will also appeal to the older crowd. All in all, if you are looking for a feel good, old-fashioned love story, this movie is for you.

Sara Bareilles' "Love Song" takes her to the top

The folksy female artist reaches the coveted top three spot on iTunes

BY KATHRYN
BATEMAN
STAFF WRITER

"I'm not gonna write you a love song/ 'Cause you ask for it/ 'Cause you need one."

These lyrics probably sound familiar. Yes, it seems Sara Bareilles and her hit single "Love Song" are just about everywhere these days.

It started in June 2007 when Bareilles' single "Love Song" was featured as the iTunes free single of the week. The following month, when her first major-label debut "Little Voice" was released, it shot to No. 1 on the list of most downloaded albums of the music store in its first week of release. It also debuted at No. 45 on the Billboard 200 chart.

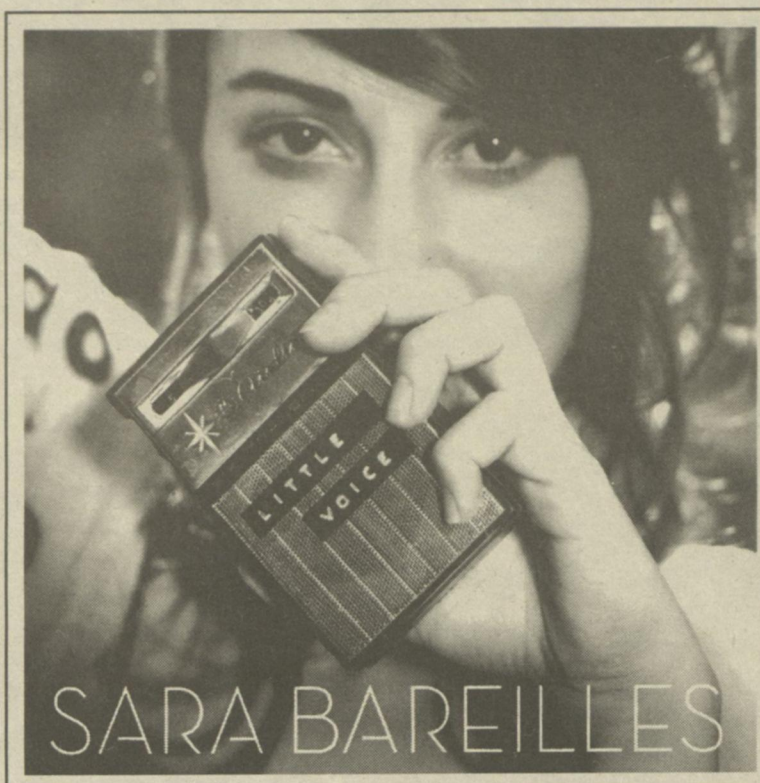
The ever-so-catchy "Love Song" was then featured on a Rhapsody commercial and jumped the pop charts from No. 73 to No. 16. In early 2008 Bareilles performed the song on both "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "The Today Show." This week, "Love Song" occupies No. 5 on the Billboard Hot 100 List and "Little Voice" has the ninth spot on the Billboard 200.

"Love Song" and every other track on the latest album "Little Voice," "chronicle my life, my relationships, my basket-case-ness and my utter devotion to trying to write honest stuff down and share it," Bareilles explains in her mini auto-biography.

"That's where the title ["Little Voice"] comes from. This record was really about me learning to trust my own instincts and, more importantly recognize how desperately I needed to learn to listen to myself, however inexperienced and naïve I may be."

Whether sassy and upbeat or soulful and slow, tracks like "Love on the Rocks," "Between the Lines" and "Gravity" explore the details of Bareilles' failed relationships. Her lyrics take basic human emotions and twist them into creative stories and ideas. In a review from "Rolling Stone," Caryn Ganz said, "Bareilles' writing voice is uniquely her own."

It's tempting to simply applaud Bareilles' capable Fiona Apple-on-Prozac homage for what it is: slightly edgy, stompy piano-based pop rock. That is accurate until she unfurls the earsplittingly impressive



COURTESY OF SARA BAREILLES
The cover of Bareilles' debut album, "Little Voice," in stores now.

climax note of the Maroon 5-esque "Come Round Soon."

What's even more impressive is Bareilles' confession of having no formal training in either voice or piano. She grew up on several acres of Redwood forest in Eureka, California. At Eureka Senior High School, she participated in choir, community and school theatre productions and was

voted "Most Talented" by her peers in her senior yearbook. She attended UCLA where she was a member of the a cappella group Awaken.

"In school I studied Communications, but everywhere else I secretly studied the world around me. I felt stupid and wonderful and small and liberated and exhilarated and I started feeling the need to write

it all down. And then I wanted to start singing those things. I played open mics and small shows that started becoming bigger shows and actually started calling myself a musician," Bareilles said.

After graduating from UCLA in 2002 Bareilles continued performing and released two independent live albums in 2003. The following year, she released her first studio album, "Careful Confessions." In April 2005 she signed a contract with Epic Records and spent a year re-working her old songs and writing new ones for her latest album "Little Voice." That year, Bareilles said, "Represents one of the most tumultuous years of my life that thankfully made me a stronger, better artist. I'm incredibly grateful for that."

Since 2006, Bareilles has opened for multiple artists: Marc Broussard, Aqualung, Mika, Rocco DeLuca and the Burden, Maroon 5 and Paolo Nutini. She has also co-headlined a tour with Jon McLaughlin. Beginning in April, she will headline a tour with Rachael Yamagata and Raining Jane. Bareilles will play the House of Blues April 1 at 8 p.m.

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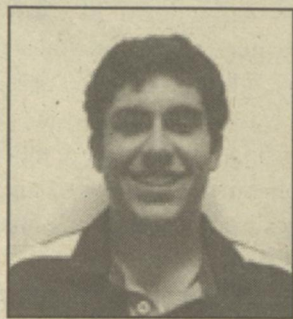
Sportsworthy:

"I've told them all year long, the greatest experience they can have is to play in the NCAA tournament, and now they will."

I'm fired up for them."

-Coach Bill Grier after defeating Gonzaga

From zero to heroes



BY RAYMOND AYALA
SPORTS EDITOR

USD -- this is what dreams are made of. When I applied to USD, I expected the team to be compared to USF and LMU, but now we are at a whole new level. The fan support went from being a couple of fans sprawled out over the arena to a massive wave of enthusiasm and school spirit. I remember going to a game earlier this year against Cal State Bakersfield, and expecting USD to have a big enough lead so I could leave to complete a paper I had due the next day. Halftime came and USD was down and they never came back, losing to a school that just joined Division I basketball two years ago. My roommates and I looked at each other and were shocked.

Comparing that game to last night's upset over Gonzaga is like comparing night and day. The puppy that the USD basketball team was during that CSU Bakersfield game grew into a ferocious pitbull that began to maul opponents during the WCC season.

To make things even sweeter, the USD women's basketball team was able to pull off an upset of their own over the Gonzaga. They deserve just as much credit as the men's team. They began the conference season 0-5, after being picked to finish in first place in the WCC. They turned a disappointing start into a magical finish.

The NCAA Tournament will begin next week, and while the odds are going to be stacked against both teams, everyone has to remember to keep their spirits high. There was once a team named George Mason, and anyone who knows sports knows about their run in 2006!

The student turnout at both the women's and men's games are a testament to the sports programs we are building here at USD. Our school, after decades of average sports teams, is now coming into its own and getting national attention. We have an opportunity as a student body to use these wins as a spring board to the next level of college athletics. We have the foundation, now it is up to you to build upon it what you please!

Lady Toreros dust off dancing shoes

BY SCOTT DENAULT
STAFF WRITER

When people talk about March, the word madness usually follows. This of course refers to the NCAA tournament that catches everyone's attention sports fan or not. For the first time in eight years, the USD women's basketball team will be part of that talk. The Toreros started out the week defeating the University of Portland 61-57 and Santa Clara University 72-66. The team completed their weekend beating the Gonzaga Bulldogs 70-66 to become the WCC Tournament champions and earn the conference's automatic bid into the NCAA tournament.

The Toreros started off the tournament with a victory over a strong Portland team. The Pilots proved to be a tough game for the Toreros, but the late run by Portland was not enough versus the high-powered scoring of San Diego. Junior center Amber Sprague posted a double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds while freshman guard Sam Child added 14 points for the Toreros. Senior guard Amanda Rego also dished out nine assists, adding to the stats.

San Diego headed into the semifinal game against Santa Clara with all the momentum and confidence they won in the first round.

The Broncos fought the Toreros till the end but clutch free throw shooting by Sprague and junior forward Kiya Herman capped the game for the Toreros. Herman led the team with 23 points, on an impressive 9-for-16 performance from the field. Sophomore forward Morgan Henderson and Sprague both added 14 points apiece and Rego chipped in 10 points as the fourth Torero in double figures.

The Toreros found themselves in the exact position that they have been working for since the start of their season, a chance to play for the WCC championship and the NCAA tournament.

"This is right where we wanted to be," junior guard Kelly Winther said.

"A chance to play for the WCC championship and the NCAA tournament is something that myself and my teammates have worked for since the day we stepped on campus."



RYAN BRENNAN/ THE VISTA

WCC Women's Tournament MVP senior guard Amanda Rego was the spark plug for a powerful USD offense. The Toreros will find out who they play next on March 17.

The championship game was a battle for both teams, and they traded the lead until the Toreros took a commanding 27-10 first half lead over the Bulldogs. However, the Bulldogs would use a scoring run of their own to bring the game into reach before the half. In the second half, the Bulldogs looked like the top seed, chipping away at the San Diego lead. The battle for the lead then continued with both teams taking their turn at it. San Diego then took the lead and never let it go.

Henderson paced the USD offense as she scored a team-high 20 points on an impressive 6-for-8 performance from beyond the arc.

Four other USD players were in double figures as Herman scored 16 points, Sprague added 14 and both Rego and Child added in 10 points apiece. Rego also dished out a game-high 12 assists and pulled down seven boards.

Rego was named the WCC women's tournament MVP. Rego averaged nine points, 9.7 assists, and 6.3 rebounds during the tournament.

"This is something I've wanted to do from the moment I stepped on this campus," Rego said. The Toreros team leader was not going to end her career at the Jenny Craig Pavilion on a losing note.

"It's been a goal for us every single season. All the hard work, all the hours, all the tears we put into this finally paid off. It is absolutely amazing," Rego said.

The Toreros claimed a seat on top of the WCC and in the NCAA tournament this past weekend. Now all they can do is wait for the field of 64 to be revealed and to find out who they will play in the first round. But for the moment, the team can relax, take a minute and smile at everything they have accomplished.

TOREROS Week in Review

BY RAYMOND AYALA
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's softball

The women's softball team went 2-2 during a visit to ASU for the Diamond Devil Invitational. The Toreros defeated a ranked SDSU team and

Utah. The Toreros are currently 6-14.

Next Game: The Toreros will play in the USD Toreros Classic II on March 14 and 15.

Men's golf

The men's golf team had a great showing at the Callaway Golf Invitational, finishing in second place. The Toreros were led by freshman Gunner Wiebe and junior Blake Trimble.

Next Match: The Toreros golf team play on March 17 and 18 in the Barona Collegiate Tournament.

Men's rugby

The men's rugby team is on one of the best winning streaks in the young program's history, picking up three straight wins against Claremont University, University of Arizona, and Arizona State. Team Captains Wyn Williams and Cyrus Homayoun both played some of their best games over this stretch.

Next match: The Toreros will be taking on Cal Poly this weekend, as they will try to stretch their winning streak to four games.

The beginning of the beginning for Josh Johnson

BY ALBERT SAMAHA
STAFF WRITER

This is the first part of a four part series on Josh Johnson's NFL Draft process.

The modest wind sweeps through the deep valleys, picking up speed as it blows through the canyon and finding even the smallest crevice to seep through. It goes unnoticed before it picks up speed, simply flowing through the obstacles in its path. The wind rushes over the lush green turf, causing the black rubber pellets to bounce. As the modest wind reaches midfield, however, it does not faze the tight spiral slicing through the air, between blue-clad defenders, blistering into the hands of the barely open receiver.

A slight grin crosses the face of perhaps the best quarterback of the 2008 NFL draft class. After all, what's not to be happy about? The perfection of another picturesque San Diego sunset serendipitously serves as the backdrop for the perfection of yet another precise 45-yard dart. The smile, however, is short-lived, and Josh Johnson is back to business, ready for the next play.

The story of the most prolific quarterback in USD history is widely known, as it has been covered by virtually every significant media source: the 5-foot-9-inch, 140-pound high school senior, overlooked by all major colleges due to his size, came to San Diego, and blossomed into "The best quarterback at any level of college football," according to former USD head coach Jim Harbaugh, now at Stanford.

Against Division I-A competition at the annual East-West Shrine Game, a college all-star game pitting potential draft prospects against other potential draft prospects, Johnson took home the game's MVP award, officially putting the University of San Diego on the national football map. At the NFL Combine, which invites around the top 300



ALBERT SAMAHA/ THE VISTA

Josh Johnson enjoys some time with former Oakland Tech teammate and current Buffalo Bills running back Marshawn Lynch. Johnson is a projected first day pick.

prospects in the nation, Johnson posted the best quarterback vertical jump and 40-yard dash, which at 4.55 seconds was better than Vince Young's mark in 2006.

These numbers, though, feed into the biggest misconception regarding Johnson. Despite his swift 40 time, his breathtaking 89-yard run against Northern Colorado this past season, and, yes, despite the fact that he is black, Johnson is first and foremost a pocket passer. It is unfortunate that numerous media outlets stereotype Johnson by comparing him to NFL players such as Tavaris Jackson, Michael Vick, Vince Young and even Antwan Randle El, thus bypassing Johnson's three best physical skills: his accuracy, high quick release and mechanics.

USD quarterback Ben Hannula, who as a receiver in 2006 caught more Johnson passes than any other Torero, said, "With Josh, you always have to be ready to get the ball. He's able to buy so much time for you to get open because his quickness translates well in the pocket and not just in the open field."

Johnson's greatest attribute, however, rests above and to the left of his multi-million dollar caliber shoulder. What 65-yard bombs and four and a half second 40s fail to show is Johnson's off the charts football IQ. The challenge posed by Johnson to general managers across the league is, simply, to "watch film with me for an hour."

One USD teammate who has shared a huddle with Johnson marvels at his ability to diagnose a play even before

stepping to the line. "Before we break the huddle, [Johnson] knows almost exactly what's going to happen on the play. It's as if he can see [the play] before he's done calling it," Hannula said.

Despite his football related aptitude, teammates agree that the most impressive aspect of Josh Johnson remains his humility.

"He's a really down to earth guy. Josh has so much talent, but you'd never know it by talking to him," defensive back Nick Vassiliadis said.

In a sporting climate where individual accomplishment is glorified and me-first athletes grab headlines, Johnson is a breath of fresh air.

With all his talent and accomplishments Johnson could have easily transferred to a more renowned football program with better facilities, better competition and more national exposure. Yet he chose to complete his spectacular career at a non-scholarship program which garners not even 10,000 fans at each game, blessing each and every one of them with unforgettable performance after unforgettable performance.

"This team is so close. We're a family. You can't find this anywhere else, USD is a special place," Johnson said.

Discussing his remarkable journey from a maternally strong upbringing in Oakland to a "Castle on a Hill" in San Diego during a heart-warming speech that left no eye at the USD football banquet dry, Johnson proves there is one person not completely astounded by his exploits.

"My job's easy. All I have to do is get the ball to my teammates. They make the plays," Johnson said.

As the mountains get larger, the modest wind gains power. Soon it becomes a storm. Then, the modest wind is finally noticed.

Check back April 3 for part two of the Josh Johnson draft process series.

Baseball wakes up the bats, but loses two of four

BY JUSTIN SAKS
STAFF WRITER

The early part of the baseball season for the Toreros has had as many ups and downs as the wooden roller coaster at Belmont Park in Mission Beach. The Toreros started out the season on a sour note, losing to crosstown rival San Diego State three out of four games.

The team then rebounded to win three of four against Missouri, Cal Poly and Fresno State.

Last weekend the Toreros continued their challenging schedule. The Toreros were able to beat two nationally ranked teams in Oklahoma State and back-to-back defending College World Series champions Oregon State. The twists and turns of the weekend were enough to upset one's stomach with non-conference losses to unranked Santa Clara and LMU.

The Toreros remained in the top-25

rankings but they fell 10 spots in the Rivals.com and four spots in the Baseball America poll to No. 21 in both.

Last Thursday at home, the Toreros played Santa Clara where they lost 7-6 in a game that was called after eight innings due to darkness. In the third inning the Broncos pushed across five runs on six hits to take a 6-1 lead.

The Toreros were able to tie things up in the fifth thanks in large part to a two-run double by Josh Romanski and a two-run home run by freshman power hitter Victor Sanchez. In the eighth, the Broncos were able to take the lead for good when they scored an unearned run because of a throwing error. San Diego reliever Matt Thompson was saddled with the loss, his first on the season.

Friday afternoon the Toreros played No. 21 Oklahoma State at Cunningham Stadium. All-American pitcher Brian Matusz threw a gem to lead the Toreros to victory. Taking pressure off the offense, Matusz had 12 strikeouts and

allowed only one unearned run through eight innings, picking up his second win of the year.

The only Torero on the day to have multiple hits was Sean Nichol who went 2-for-3 with an RBI. Also picking up RBIs in the 7-2 win were Romanski, Sanchez, Steve Kaupang and James Meador.

With back-to-back defending national champion Oregon State in town, the Toreros knew they would be in for a tough game. With the score tied going into the seventh inning, Romanski got things rolling for the Toreros with a leadoff single followed by back-to-back walks for Sanchez and pinch hitter Steven Chatwood. Coach Rich Hill decided to pinch hit with Meador with the bases juiced, and his instincts paid dividends.

Meador doubled down the leftfield line driving in two runs and giving the Toreros the lead for good. After a four-run seventh the Toreros added another

insurance run in the eighth to double up the Beavers 10-5. Pitching one perfect inning in relief, Ricardo Pecina picked up his first win on the season.

On Sunday, at Point Loma Nazarene the Toreros were upset by Loyola Marymount University. Freshman pitcher Kyle Blair pitched five innings while striking out 10 and allowing four earned runs. Despite the solid pitching line, Blair fell to 0-3 on the season. The lone offensive bright spots for the Toreros were a 2-for-4 day for Kevin Muno with a triple and the first collegiate home run for freshman Zach Walters, a solo shot. The final score on the afternoon was 13-3.

The Toreros head to Hawaii this weekend to play four games before heading back home. Hopefully a trip to Hawaii will bring some relaxation and consistency to the Toreros for the remainder of the season. The Toreros will look to bounce back from a tough week of baseball.

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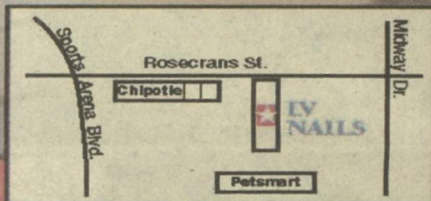
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Toreros clinch tourney bid on home court

BY RAYMOND AYALA
SPORTS EDITOR

Pinch yourself--no you are not dreaming. The University of San Diego is going dancing, after pulling off back-to-back-to-back wins in the conference tournament. The WCC championships were held at the Jenny Craig Pavilion, giving the Toreros the home court advantage. Coming into the tournament the Toreros received the No. 3 seed for the tournament after finishing the WCC regular season 11-3.

Even though the Toreros were playing on their home court, they still had a tough road ahead of them to win the WCC Tournament.

The competition was some of the best in the history of the tournament with Gonzaga as the No. 1 seed with an 13-1 conference record, and No. 2 Saint Mary's with a 12-2 conference record. Before the Toreros were to take on the Bulldogs and the Gaels, they first had to face a tough test against an opponent they were expected to beat: the Pepperdine Waves.

On Saturday, the University of San Diego took on Pepperdine in the quarterfinals of the WCC tournament. The Toreros started the game off strong and took a double-digit lead early. The Waves battled back on multiple occasions, led by their freshmen tandem of forwards Tyrone Shelley and Malcolm Thomas. The Toreros offense was too strong for a bewildered Pepperdine Waves team, as the Toreros defeated Pepperdine 73-55.

On Sunday, the Toreros played a semi-final game against the Saint Mary's Gaels. The Gaels came out firing on all cylinders, building an early 26-9 lead. The Toreros did not let a large St. Mary's lead bring them down, as they cut the deficit to 13 at halftime, with junior center Gyno Pomare's tip in.

The Toreros came out with determination and focus in the second half, cutting the lead to single digits, and eventually tying the game with two free throws by freshman forward Rob Jones.

The game went into overtime with the Toreros taking their first lead of the game, but losing it after a jumper hit by Gaels junior forward Diamon Simpson. The game was tied again, and went into double-overtime. The second overtime was all Toreros as the squad rushed out to an eight-point lead on two free throws hit by junior guard De'Jon Jackson. The Toreros controlled the



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

Junior point guard Brandon Johnson was named the Tournament MVP. Johnson averaged 18 points per game, leading the Toreros.

game on the defensive end for the rest of double overtime, and hit clutch free throws down the stretch to give them a much needed semi-finals victory.

A win against St. Mary's meant a third and final matchup pitting USD against the No. 1 seed Gonzaga Bulldogs. Unlike the last home game, the Bulldogs' fans showed up in full force for the WCC Championship game.

The crowd was mixed with half Bulldog fans and half Torero fans and everyone made their voice heard. Gonzaga pushed the Toreros defense hard in the first half, and opened up an early seven-point lead.

That lead was quickly erased by a run in the first half led by Pomare, giving the Toreros a three-point lead going into halftime. The second half was all Toreros, as they started out strong and finished strong. The Bulldogs tried to fight back, but lead by Brandon Johnson, the Toreros offense exploded taking a 10-point lead with 2:59 left in the game. The Toreros kept the lead and sealed it with a huge dunk by freshman guard Trumaine Johnson. The game ended with the Toreros victorious 69-62.

After the tournament had ended, and the Toreros pulled back-to-back upsets, the fans stormed the court hoisting Brandon Johnson on their shoulders.

"We felt great on our own court tonight; shooting on our

own court, our rims. The fans and the environment felt really good," Jackson said.

"It feels great to finally beat Gonzaga. We believed in ourselves tonight and the turnout was great. When we first got out there I had a lot of defenders on me, but as we got down the home stretch we continued to fight through it and it worked," said Brandon Johnson, who earned tournament MVP honors.

Coach Bill Grier has been the story of the year. As a rookie head coach he has guided the Toreros to their first NCAA Tournament berth since 2003.

"I have been trying to convince them all year that they can beat Gonzaga. I stressed that today was not about getting into the tournament, but about stepping up to the next level. This group has hung together and played some great ball. We have played three games in three days, defeating two great programs," Grier said.

The Toreros will now have to wait until Sunday, when the NCAA Tournament field will be announced live on CBS. It is still unknown where the Toreros will travel for the tournament. The Toreros have been picked by some experts on yahoo.com and ESPN.com as anywhere from a No. 12 seed to a No. 15 seed. The Toreros will be entering the NCAA tournament on a five-game winning streak, and the WCC Championship under their belt.



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

The USD crowd gets fired up after an amazing play by the Toreros. The Torero fans showed up in full force for this pivotal game.



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

Freshman forward Rob Jones hits a fade away jumpshot. Jones had 15 points and six rebounds en route to a USD win.



RYAN BRENNAN/THE VISTA

Junior guard De'Jon Jackson drives to the basket on Gonzaga guard Matt Bouldin. Jackson was named to the WCC Tournament team.